

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-11 RSC-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 SIL-01

OIC-04 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /189 W

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R 071550Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7791

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PASS LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ILO, UK

SUBJECT: THE UK AND THE ILO - DIRECTOR GENERAL ELECTION

REF: STATE 018028 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE UK GOVERNMENT, WORKER AND EMPLOYER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT BLANCHARD FOR THE OFFICE OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL, PARTICULARLY IF THE CHOICE REMAINS BETWEEN BLANCHARD AND TEVEODJRE, OF DAHOMEY. END SUMMARY

2. THE LABOR ATTACHE HAS HAD SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ALUN MORGAN, UNDER SECRETARY, OVERSEAS DEPT., DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT; CYRIL PLANT, UK WORKER MEMBER, AND TIM
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HEALEY, A CBI OFFICIAL, WHO IS DEPUTY TO THE UK EMPLOYER

MEMBER, C.A.C. HENNIKER-HEATON. MORGAN SAID THAT THE UK WOULD VERY LIKELY SUPPORT BLANCHARD. HE BELIEVES THAT WHILE BLANCHARD IS NOW THE FRONT RUNNER, HIS ELECTION IS BY NO MEANS "IN THE BAG." MORGAN THINKS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT BLANCHARD MAY NOT OBTAIN THE VOTES OF THE MEXICAN AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS AND THAT - QUITE APART FROM AFRICA - WILL ALSO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN SECURING SOME OTHER ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN VOTES.

3. PLANT SAID THAT HE WILL SUPPORT BLANCHARD AGAINST TEVEODJRE UNLESS SOME DARK HORSE ENTERS AT THE LAST MOMENT, WHICH HE NOW BELIEVES HIGHLY DOUBTFUL. HE ESTIMATES THAT THE WORKERS' GROUP WILL VOTE 9-3 IN FAVOR OF BLANCHARD'S CANDIDACY. THE THREE FOR TEVEODJRE WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE FOGAM (CAMEROON), ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT SURE OF THIS; ROBEL, MADAGASCAR; AND MAKHLOUF, TUNISIA.

4. HEALEY SAID THAT IF THERE WERE ONLY TWO CANDIDATES WHEN THE GOVERNING BODY VOTES FOR A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL, WHICH HE BELIEVES WILL BE FEBRUARY 26, "THERE IS NO DOUBT WE WILL SUPPORT BLANCHARD.. HEALEY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT "AT THIS MOMENT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME." HE SAID THE ILO EMPLOYERS' MEMBERS WILL VERY LIKELY SPLIT. HE EXPECTS THAT THE NIGERIAN EMPLOYER MEMBER WILL EITHER VOTE FOR TEVEODJRE OR ABSTAIN, AND THAT OTHER EMPLOYERS FROM ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES MAY DO THE SAME.

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